

of which species Mr. Seeley says it is only a variety. *Pholas Dallasi* (mihi) appears to me to be nearly allied to D'Orbigny's *P. Cornueliana*; and both will, of course, take their place in the subgenus *Pholadidea*, as indicated by Mr. Seeley.

Finally, Mr. Seeley says: "The age of the beds is a difficult problem, and not one that can be solved by an appeal to fossils, or mineral character, or superposition." Unfortunately, Mr. Seeley does not inform us how the problem is to be solved, unless he wishes us to receive his hypotheses without requiring any proof. If I am honoured by a reply to my remarks, I may remind Mr. Seeley that, although the opinion of an eminent geologist must have great weight, yet it is by no means weakened by an appeal to facts, and that it is hardly fair to adduce in support of his arguments results said to be detailed in a book still unpublished, or in papers which have not yet appeared in print*.

XVIII.—*Note on the Species of the Genus Tribonyx.* By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., Secretary to the Zoological Society of London.

IN endeavouring to ascertain the correct scientific name of a fine specimen of a Ralloid bird of the genus *Tribonyx*, from Western Australia, which has lately been added to the Society's Collection, I have discovered that there seems to have been some little confusion between two of the species of this genus, which I take the opportunity of setting right.

Upon turning to Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Australia,' to which one naturally refers for the determination of an Australian bird, it is at once apparent that the Society's specimen is not the bird figured there as *Tribonyx Mortieri*, being distinguishable by its larger size and the distinct white stripes on the wings, although otherwise much resembling it. But, in his original description of *Tribonyx Mortieri*, Du Bus most clearly describes these

* Several examples of this citation of unpublished materials occur in Mr. Seeley's paper. I may refer more particularly to that which, as he says, was read on May 27th, 1867, before the Cambridge Philosophical Society, on a deposit near Upware. I was present on that occasion, and heard Mr. Seeley's remarks, with many of which, however, I could not concur, as I stated at the time. Mr. Seeley's so-called paper consisted apparently of an extempore exposition of his views. No list of fossils was given by him; and the whole paper was quite unworthy of an attempt to revolutionize the geological classification of the Upper Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous beds, in support of which it is cited in the last Number of the 'Annals.' I had already communicated (May 7th, 1867) a short paper on the Upware deposit to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society: this is printed in the 'Geological Magazine' for July.

spots*, although they are very faintly represented in the figure attached. It is the same in the case of Lafresnaye's description of his *Brachytrallus ralloides*, which is to be referred to the stripe-winged species. It becomes evident, therefore, that Mr. Gould has been in error in referring the smaller Tasmanian bird to *Tribonyx Mortieri*; and I propose to call it *Tribonyx Gouldi*, after its discoverer. We may then distinguish the three species (two of which are now living in the Society's collection, where also the third was exhibited alive a few years since) as follows:—

1. *Tribonyx Mortieri*.

Tribonyx Mortieri, Du Bus, Bull. Ac. Brux. vii. p. 215 (cum fig.).
Brachytrallus ralloides, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1840, p. 232.

Diagn. Major; alis albo striatis; plaga magna hypochondriali alba.

Hab. Western Australia.

In vivario Soc. Zool. Londin. Specimen unicum!

2. *Tribonyx Gouldi*.

Tribonyx Mortieri, Gould, Birds of Austr. vi. pl. 71; ejusd. Handb. ii. p. 324.

Diagn. Medius; alis immaculatis; plaga magna hypochondriali alba.

Hab. Tasmania.

Nuper in vivario Soc. Zool. Londin.

3. *Tribonyx ventralis*.

Gallinula ventralis, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1836, p. 85.

Tribonyx ventralis, Gould, Birds of Austr. vi. pl. 72; Handb. to Birds of Austr. ii. p. 325.

Diagn. Minor; alis immaculatis; hypochondriis nigris, albo guttatis.

Hab. New South Wales, Southern Australia, Victoria and Western Australia (Gould).

In vivario Soc. Zool. Londin.

XIX.—On *Hyalonema lusitanicum*. By J. V. BARBOZA DU BOCAGE.

Letters addressed to Dr. J. E. Gray.

MY DEAR SIR,

Lisbon, May 25, 1867.

On my return from a journey of a few weeks to our northern provinces I have just received three of your letters, the last of

* "Tectricibus alarum mediis et minoribus cinereo-olivaceis, albo terminatis, et longitrorsum in medio striatis."—*Du Bus*.